

AFSCME Local 714
Robley D. Newton, Chief Steward

Testimony- February 15, 2007 LOB room 2E

Raised Bill No. 1051 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF AIR QUALITY IN STATE BUILDINGS.

Good afternoon, I am Chief Steward for AFSCME Local 714 and I specialize in Workers Compensation Claims involving Brother and Sister Union members all State Employees that suffer from disabilities related to Sick Building Syndrome (SBS). Their symptoms run from lethargy or fatigue, headache, dizziness, nausea, irritation of mucous membranes, to a heightened sensitivity to odors. Also I have had complaints that include eye and nasopharyngeal irritation, rhinitis or nasal congestion with an inability to concentrate with a feeling of malaise. Each individual I have represented experience acute on-site discomfort.

Major factors for SBS, Sick Building Syndrome, poor building design, maintenance, and/or operation of the structure's ventilation system may be root causes. A buildings' ventilation system itself can be a source of irritants. Interior redesign, such as the rearrangement of offices or the installation of partitions, may also interfere with the efficient functioning of ventilation systems.

I am certified as an Emergency Planner in accordance with the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. I have been involved with chemical mishaps for almost a decade. When there is a mishap or a reported illness fro SBS the standards of ventilation as established by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) are examined and reviewed. Along with reviewing a ventilation systems PMS log, Preventative Maintenance System logbook, which records all changes and adjustments, made to a particular ventilation system.

I am here today to speak in favor of bill No. 1051 and to ask for some minor additions to the bill. First, the bill requires "each state building" be inspected and evaluated for indoor air quality. I would like to see 'and state occupied buildings' added to that line. Secondly, to the phrase "(1) The heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems;" add 'in accordance with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards' that line would insure that PMS log books are prepared for each system.

Thank you for your time today my Membership and I look forwarded to this legislation passing.

Respectfully submitted,



Robley D. Newton

Chief Steward-AFSCME Local 714